Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine

A brief description

1985

WELLCOME COLL.
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illustration on front cover: oil painting on panel by Matthijs Naiveu (Leiden 1647–1721 Amsterdam). Wellcome Institute library (no. CC 9114). A lady receives the attention of a physician, who takes her pulse at the wrist, and of a surgeon, who lets blood from her foot. European academic medicine invoked three main reasons for bloodletting: evacuation (to reduce a general excess of blood), derivation (to attract blood to a part in which it was deficient), and revulsion (to draw blood away from an area in which it was redundant). There was an elaborate system of indications and counter-indications for the practice.

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A brief description

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London

Wellcome Library
for the History
and Understanding
of Medicine

WELLCOME
COLLECTION

/ (57)

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Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine

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INTRODUCTION

The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine exists to provide library resources and research and teaching facilities for all persons with serious interests in the history of medicine and the allied sciences. It is supported solely by the Wellcome Trust, the charity created by the will of Sir Henry S. Wellcome (1853–1936).

Since 1977, staff of the Academic Unit have provided courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students in association with University College London. A programme of symposia, seminars, and lectures is also available to the general public. The Library's resources are rich and varied and yield opportunities for research and study in virtually every aspect of the subject.

Seating for approximately fifty-four readers is available in the Library's public rooms. In addition, visiting scholars may be granted longer-term accommodation in one of the study-carrels. The Institute has an eighty-seat lecture room, and a seminar room for class-work. A range of photo-reprography facilities is available at reasonable cost.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine represents the Library and Research functions of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum and Library, created by Sir Henry S. Wellcome (1853–1936) during the last forty years of his life.

The Wellcome Trustees, who own the Institute, are the sole shareholders of the international pharmaceutical company, the Wellcome Foundation Ltd, whose distributed trading profits are used to support medical, scientific, and medical historical research.

After an existence in chrysalis form since 1898, the Museum was first placed on public display in 1913 on the occasion of the Seventeenth International Congress of Medicine. In 1932, it was transferred from its original cramped premises at 54 Wigmore Street to the newly erected Wellcome Research Institution (now the Wellcome Building) in Euston Road. In the new building the Museum had ample space for expansion, but when Wellcome died in 1936 it was still closed for reorganization. The Library was never opened to the public in Wellcome's time; since 1928, it had been housed in a former wireless factory in Willesden, where also the Museum Stores were concentrated, and Wellcome's intention seems to have been that it should ultimately occupy a separate building in Euston Road.

Wellcome's collecting had been on a grand scale, covering the whole history of man with medicine as a central core. On his death, it was decided that, in order to bring the vast accumulation down to manageable size, its scope should be more closely restricted to the history of medicine and science. A great deal of irrelevant material was therefore dispersed by sale or gift in 1938 and subsequent years, an operation substantially completed in 1983.

After the war, development of the historical collections was hampered by financial difficulties. The head offices of the Wellcome Foundation Ltd had been destroyed in the bombing of London, and in 1946 it was decided that the Wellcome Research Institution should be taken over for this purpose (it was re-named the Wellcome Building in 1955). The Museum was dismantled and placed in store except for a nucleus housed at 28 Portman Square from 1947 to 1954. In 1955, the Museum returned to the Wellcome Building but to very restricted space. The Library was

able to remain in the Wellcome Building, where the room originally designed as the Museum's Hall of Statuary had been allocated to it in 1941. It was officially opened to the public at the end of 1949, although at first the accommodation left much to be desired.

In 1960, the anomalous situation whereby the Museum and Library had been the property of the Wellcome Foundation Ltd was rectified and ownership passed to the Wellcome Trust. For a time, the Museum and Library were administered separately, but in 1964 they were reunited and in 1968 renamed the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine. The Library was redesigned and modernized in 1962, and the Museum between 1968 and 1970. Since then, a reappraisal of the Institute's functions has led to the decision that the Museum's interests would best be served by transfer to a national museum, and, accordingly, in 1976 arrangements were made for its deposit on indefinite loan at the Science Museum, South Kensington. Two permanent exhibition galleries are now open there. The remainder of the Institute continues to be under the direct control of the Wellcome Trust and since 1976 has been developed as an academic research centre closely linked with University College London (below, page 18).

THE LIBRARY

The heart of the Institute is its Library, the nucleus of which consists of the books collected by and for Sir Henry Wellcome between 1898 and 1936. Since then, it has continued to grow by the acquisition of both primary and secondary sources, so that today it is the largest and most comprehensive European collection in the history of medicine. On an international scale it ranks in size and quality among the finest two or three libraries serving the history of medicine and its allied sciences. It contains about 400,000 printed books dating from the fifteenth to the twentieth centuries.

This large holding comprises much more than medical literature in the narrow sense. In addition to extensive holdings of material on clinical medicine and therapeutics, the Library possesses large collections relating to the history of the biological sciences in general, and in particular to physiology, botany, and chemistry – all subjects whose histories are closely intertwined with that of the healing arts. There are

important holdings relating to travel, ethnography, alchemy, occultism, tobacco, smallpox and vaccination, venereal diseases, and veterinary medicine, and there is a wealth of material on ordinary aspects of medical care such as hospitals, case histories, and nursing. Additionally, substantial acquisitions have been made in recent years of materials from other institutions. Outstanding examples are some forty five per cent of the original library of the Medical Society of London, a large collection (*c.* 24,000 volumes) of mostly eighteenth- and nineteenth-century books belonging to the Royal Society of Medicine, and the library of the Royal Society of Health (*c.* 30,000 volumes).

The Reading Room of the Wellcome Institute Library. It contains reference-books on open access, but not the rare books and manuscript which are kept in air-conditioned strongrooms. The anatomical figures at the end of the room are enlargements of woodcuts published by Andreas Vesalius in 1543.

One of Henry Wellcome's aims was to acquire a copy of every significant printed text from the history of Western medical science. Achievement of this impossible aim was at least closely approached. The Library's collection of over 600 incunabula was largely made up of accessions from three famous private libraries, those of William Morris, J.F. Payne, and Kurt Wolff. Most of the great names in the history of medicine from antiquity, the European Middle Ages, and the Renaissance are represented by original or early editions of their works. The Library is particularly rich in books of the Continental scientific renaissance, and it has a fine collection of early printed medical books in English.

Interesting and early association copies are three volumes which belonged to Hieronymus Münzer (1437–1508), town physician of Nuremberg, and bear his signature and notes, viz., an *Articella* (1483) and the first editions of Bernard of Gordon's *Lilium medicinae* (1480) and of the *Aphorismi secundum doctrinam Galeni* (1489) of the medieval Jewish physician and philosopher Moses Maimonides. Another – Johannes Stoeffler and Jacobus Pflaum's *Almanach nova* (1499) – has the signature of Hartmann Schedel, Münzer's friend and colleague, and compiler of the celebrated *Nuremberg Chronicle* (1493), of which the Library has a superb copy, with contemporary notes, from William Morris's library.

Books from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries include editions of Aristotle, Galen, Hippocrates, Rhazes, Avicenna, and Albucasis, many of them in the great editions of the scholar-printers such as Aldus Manutius, Froben, the Estiennes, the Juntae, and Oporinus. In anatomy, the works of Vesalius, his predecessors and successors are included. Surgery is represented by the works of Hieronymus Brunschwig, Hans Gersdorff, Ambroise Paré, Paracelsus, Della Croce, Pierre Franco, Johannes Vigo, Marianus Sanctus, and others. The Library is rich in books on materia medica and pharmacology, and possesses an extensive range of early herbals including editions of Dioscorides and the Mainz Herbal of 1491, together with the works of Fuchs, Lobel, Bock, Dodoens, Gerard, and Parkinson. William Harvey's *De motu cordis* (1628) is present, and the Library holds the foundation works of modern science in the first editions of Bacon, Galileo, Kepler, Descartes, Hooke, Newton, and Boyle. From later centuries come the classic works of Heberden, Hunter, Jenner, Lister, Pasteur, and Roentgen, to highlight only a few famous names. Alongside the great names are the works of their forgotten contemporaries, unusual tracts, pamphlets, and occasional

literature so integral to the wider social and intellectual context of medical history.

An outstanding recent accession has been the purchase in 1984 of about 11,000 books from the library of the Medical Society of London. This collection, largely built up in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, includes about 200 manuscript volumes dating from the twelfth century onwards. The printed books in the collection have greatly strengthened the Library's holdings of fifteenth-, sixteenth-, and seventeenth-century material. Among the rarities are *The vertuose boke of distyllacyon* by Hieronymus Brunschwig (London, '1427', i.e. 1528?), the first edition of Malpighi's *De pulmonibus* (Bologna, 1661), a set of proof sheets for a never-completed edition of Michael Servetus's *Christianismi restitutio* (London, 1723), and Baskerville's prospectus for an English translation of Lieutaud's *Synopsis universae praxeos medicae* (Birmingham, 1770).

Hortus sanitatis, Ortus sanitatis, *Mainz 1491, fols. gg3*^{v}*–4*^{r}*. An early printed compendium of popular natural history and medicine with woodcut illustrations. In these pages from the section on minerals, copper is illustrated by a smith at his anvil and the precious stone draconites by a dragon-slaying scene. Draconites was said to be found in the head of a dragon or serpent and to be a specific against poison if it could be extracted while the beast was still alive.*

As part of the ongoing policy of growth and development, the Library is systematically expanding its holdings of works on clinical medicine, medical science, and related subjects in the post-1850 period.

The large collection of secondary works includes most standard monographs on the history of medicine, and supporting material on the history of science, intellectual and social history, and the social sciences relating to medicine. The Library subscribes to 200 current periodicals and lists about 2,700 periodical titles.

During Wellcome's life, his library was a focus of envy to scholars and students who were denied access to its treasures. Since its opening to the public in 1949, the Library, within the context of general Institute activity, has developed into an internationally recognized resource for the study of medical history, thus fulfilling one of its founder's dreams.

A *Catalogue of Incunabula* and three volumes of the *Catalogue of Printed Books in the Wellcome Institute Library* have already been published (see page 21). Further volumes are in preparation. A comprehensive card catalogue to the collection may be consulted in the Library. The development of a machine-readable bibliographic record of all printed holdings published after 1850 is in progress. The post-1850 entries in the author card catalogue will be progressively replaced by a microfiche catalogue giving much enhanced access possibilities. The long-term aim of automation is the creation of an on-line library catalogue.

Western Manuscripts

The majority of the Institute's western manuscripts are recorded in detail in S.A.J. Moorat's *Catalogue of Western Manuscripts on Medicine and Science in the Wellcome Library.* Published in three volumes between 1962 and 1973, this records more than 5,000 manuscripts dating from the eleventh to the twentieth centuries. More than 800 of these were written before 1650, the earliest being an Anglo-Saxon manuscript from about AD 1025. A wide variety of European languages is represented, and the subject matter is also wide-ranging, extending in some cases well beyond the fields of science and medicine. Amongst the treasures of the collection are an early *Articella* from the library of Bury St. Edmunds Abbey, a fine mid-thirteenth-century herbal with over 200 drawings of plants and animals, and a magnificently illustrated miscellany of the early fifteenth century, containing the *Apocalypse,* the *Ars moriendi,* and a splendid series of anatomical and medical illustrations. There is also an original work in the hand of John Dee, mathematician and astrologer to Queen Elizabeth I. From the later period, there are fifteen volumes of letters and documents relating to Lord Nelson and his command of various fleets during the years 1780–1805, two laboratory notebooks of Marie Curie, and one of Pasteur, as well as notes from lectures by William Hunter, John Hunter, William Cullen, Joseph Lister, and the Monros, the Scottish dynasty of anatomists.

The manuscript collection of the Medical Society of London, acquired for the Institute in 1984, contains a further 200 manuscripts dating from the twelfth to the nineteenth centuries. Almost all are recorded in Warren R. Dawson, *Manuscripta Medica: a Descriptive Catalogue of the Manuscripts in the Medical Society of London* (London, 1932).

In addition, there is a collection containing more than 100,000 autograph letters. This includes substantial collections of letters by Florence Nightingale, Louis Pasteur, Joseph Lister, Edward Jenner, Sir James Paget, T.H. Huxley, Alexander von Humboldt, and numerous other important medical and scientific figures. There is a brief index to this collection at the end of the last volume of S.A.J. Moorat's printed catalogue, and a more comprehensive card catalogue is available in the Library.

Matthaeus Platearius, Circa instans seu de medicamentis simplicibus, *Western Manuscript 626, French, late 15th century, fol. 7ʳ. The* Circa instans, *attributed to the Salernitan doctor Matthaeus Platearius, was a popular medieval herbal. This lavishly illustrated manuscript contains more than 400 miniatures of plants and other substances used in medicine, and also scenes of their collection. The miniature on fol. 7ʳ shows the extraction of alum, the properties and medicinal uses of which are described in the manuscript.*

Additional correspondence and papers dating from the third century AD (Oxyrhynchus papyrus 2547) to 1900 are currently being sorted and catalogued. Many twentieth-century papers not recorded in S.A.J. Moorat's printed catalogue have been transferred to the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre (see page 16).

The American Collection

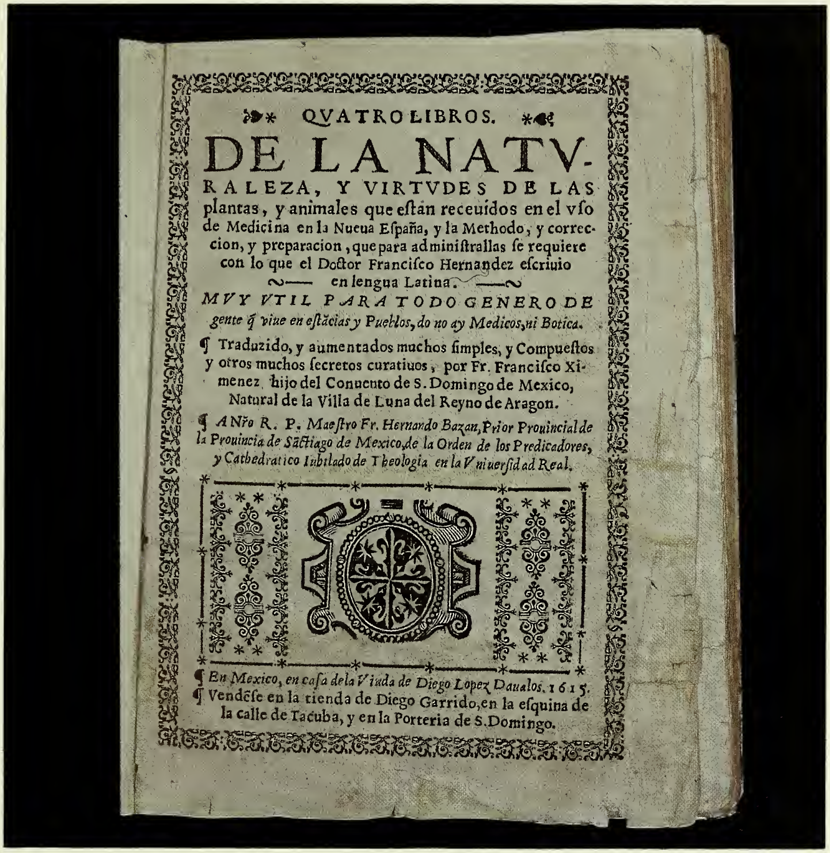
The Collection aims to cover the full range of medical practice in North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, from the medicine of the American Indian to the Europeanized medicine of the colonial and immediate post-colonial periods.

The three major collections on which the Collection is based differ widely. Sir Henry Wellcome's collection reflects his interests in plant remedies of the New World, in botanical exploration, and in the ethnology of the American Indian; that of the Mexican obstetrician and polymath Dr Nicolas Leon, purchased by Wellcome in 1927, is remarkable for its bibliographical rarities; Dr Francisco Guerra's collection, acquired by the Wellcome Trustees in 1962, is rich in Mexicana, in primary printed material from other hispanic colonies, and in works on materia medica, medical periodicals, and bibliographies, most of which relate to Latin America and the Caribbean.

North America. The material, acquired sporadically since 1962, comprises some 550 printed items published in the area of the original thirteen British colonies, 1720–1820. It represents a unique resource for primary study on this side of the Atlantic. The collection includes some manuscript material, and is strong in medical botany, nineteenth- and twentieth-century material on travel in the United States, ethnographical work on the American Indian and his medicine, and colonial and post-colonial almanacs.

Latin America and the Caribbean figure strongly in the Collection. The Mexican collection of original texts 1557–1833 is the most complete in existence; and where the original text is unobtainable, the gap is filled by a photocopy. Other former colonies whose representation is reasonably complete are Peru and Guatemala. Useful material is held for Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti (primarily in photocopy), and Jamaica. Smaller collections exist for colonies which possessed printing-presses before the end of the colonial rule, i.e. Colombia, Venezuela, Guadeloupe, and Martinique.

European sixteenth- to nineteenth-century imprints relating to the Americas range from imperial law to colonial exploration and local plant remedies. A valuable series of *Guias de forasteros* for many of the hispanic colonies, an unusual collection of invocations to the saints for relief from disease, the collection on materia medica, the collection of



QVATRO LIBROS.

DE LA NATV-
RALEZA, Y VIRTVDES DE LAS
plantas, y animales que eſtán receuidos en el vſo
de Medicina en la Nueua Eſpaña, y la Methodo, y correc-
cion, y preparacion, que para adminiſtrallas ſe requiere
con lo que el Doctor Franciſco Hernandez eſcriuio
en lengua Latina.

MVY VTIL PARA TODO GENERO DE
gente q̃ viue en eſtãcias y Pueblos, do no ay Medicos, ni Botica.

¶ Traduzido, y aumentados muchos ſimples, y Compueſtos
y otros muchos ſecretos curatiuos, por Fr. Franciſco Xi-
menez, hijo del Conuento de S. Domingo de Mexico,
Natural de la Villa de Luna del Reyno de Aragon.

¶ A Nro R. P. Maeſtro Fr. Hernando Bazan, Prior Prouincial de
la Prouincia de Sãctiago de Mexico, de la Orden de los Predicadores,
y Cathedratico Iubilado de Theologia en la Vniuerſidad Real.

¶ En Mexico, en caſa de la Viuda de Diego Lopez Daualos. 1615.
¶ Vendeſe en la tienda de Diego Garrido, en la eſquina de
la calle de Tacuba, y en la Porteria de S. Domingo.

Francisco Ximenez, Quatro libros de la naturaleza, *Mexico 1615, title page. The first separate appearance in print of a significant section of Francisco Hernandez's illustrated treatise (Rome, 1628-51) of the materia medica of New Spain, intended in part for those in remote places without physicians or drugs. Ximenez adds comments from his personal experience.*

rare official and medical periodicals, and a valuable collection of national and subject bibliographies provide further information essential to the researcher.

The 150 manuscripts, primarily of Latin American origin, and many of them of considerable and unusual research interest, complete the collection.

An annotated catalogue of the Latin American and Caribbean collection and of all the manuscripts has been prepared to aid in the fullest possible use of the Collection.

Oriental Books and Manuscripts

The collection of oriental manuscripts numbers over 10,000 with some 3,000 books printed in oriental scripts. Forty-three different languages are represented, stretching from North Africa to the Far East. The collection, pre-eminent in the history of medicine and science, is one of the major collections of oriental material in the United Kingdom and includes many treasures. As the history of medicine and science in oriental culture cannot be separated from the civilizations in which it developed, almost every sphere of human endeavour impinging on medical history of the east is found and can be studied in original sources.

Hovhannēs Erznkac'i, Yaghags erknayin sharzhman [concerning the heavenly movements], *Armenian manuscript acc. 63373, copied in 1795, fols. 32ᵛ–33ʳ. The illustration shows an astronomer looking through a telescope. The sun and moon are depicted immediately below a band of cloud which supports the signs of the zodiac, and above it a starry sky.*

Due to the efforts of Dr Paira Mall, who collected extensively in South Asia, the collection is very rich in Indian material especially Sanskrit, with about 6,000 manuscripts, and Hindi, which is one of the largest manuscript collections of this language in Europe. This remarkable physician had a great facility for languages and was proficient in German, French, Italian, Sanskrit, Persian, Urdu, Punjabi, and Arabic. His medical and linguistic background, along with his many influential contacts in the sub-continent, enabled him to create the exceedingly fine collections of Indian and Tibetan material which the Library possesses.

Dr Mall was also responsible for much of the important Persian collection of over 600 manuscripts and some 100 printed books. The manuscripts for the most part were copied in India: some are of great rarity and beauty, and a few possess good examples of Persian lacquer on their bindings. In 1967, *A Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts on Medicine and Science in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library* was published. This catalogue, compiled by Dr A.Z. Iskandar, describes 188 of the most important medical and scientific manuscripts in the Arabic collection; many others have yet to be catalogued.

Other large collections include 600 Chinese block-printed books and 400 Sinhalese palm-leaf manuscripts. Of the smaller language collections, the twenty-four Batak manuscripts is the largest collection of manuscripts in this language in the United Kingdom and comprises manuscripts written on bamboo tubes, bones, and tree bark.

Many of the oriental collections are as yet uncatalogued, and although steady progress is being made with several languages in the collection, the only catalogues published at present describe the Arabic, Batak, Ethiopian, Hebrew, Javanese, Malay, and Manchu materials. Printed books appear in the author catalogue to the printed books in the Library, and those published before 1850 in the published catalogues of printed books in the Library of the Wellcome Institute (listed on page 21). Readers may consult oriental materials in the Oriental Room, where there is a comprehensive collection of bibliographies, catalogues to other collections, dictionaries, and other reference works.

Iconographic Collections

Aspects of history for which written evidence is partial or non-existent, but which can be studied through pictorial sources, are documented in the Library's collections of paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, and variously illustrated manuscripts and printed books.

Among the subjects thus preserved are: the practice of medicine, including hospital- and bedside-scenes, surgery, midwifery, dentistry, dispensing, and quackery; the practice of such ancillary arts as alchemy and chemistry, anatomy, microbiology, pharmacy, phrenology, etc.; expressions of the patient's or potential patient's interest, in the form of satires and caricatures, devotional pictures, ex-voto paintings, 'works of mercy', icons; works issued by or for doctors, such as portraits, allegories, commemorative pictures, and scientific illustrations of anatomy, botany, dermatology, etc.; epidemics, public health, prisons, philanthropy, and an extensive range of not exclusively medical subjects. Both fine art and ephemeral or popular art are included. Works are widely published and lent for exhibition, and new items are being acquired by gift and purchase.

Photographic reproductions of all pictures are made on request: details are set out in a leaflet available at the Library Desk. Where negatives exist, specimen prints of some illustrations can be consulted on application.

Paintings (*c.*900)

Many of the paintings are exhibited in the library's public rooms; others can be seen by arrangement. They include the first and last from-the-life portraits of Edward Jenner; Spanish panel paintings including Alonso de Sedano's Miracle of SS. Cosmas and Damian (Burgos, *c.*1500); St. Elizabeth visiting a hospital by Adam Elsheimer (Frankfurt a.M., 1598); Dutch 'genre' paintings; and over fifty Tibetan thankas. Many of these have been described in specialist publications. No general catalogue is currently available; a provisional handlist of the European paintings is kept at the Enquiry Desk.

C. Williams, The country infirmary, *coloured etching, London 1813. One of the caricatures in the Iconographic Collections. The style of the window suggests a building two centuries old or older. The patients, most of whom seem to have passed middle age, lie on shared pallets without privacy. The central figure is a physician, dressed in an old-fashioned style and holding a bunch of flowers to sweeten the air around him. In the left foreground a dog treats his prescription with unhygienic contempt.*

Drawings and Prints (*c.*100,000)

These are housed in the Print Room adjacent to the Catalogue Hall on the second floor, and in a store outside the Library. Some are usually exhibited in the gallery on the third floor, outside the American and Oriental Rooms. There are rich collections of English and French caricatures; portraits (for details of the portrait catalogue see page 22); hospital views; botanical illustrations; and allegories of mortality. Among the most notable drawings are a pathological illustration in watercolour by Thomas Willis and Christopher Wren; two botanical watercolours by Ehret; and a study by Ribera for his etching of a man with goitre. The print collection is very extensive.

Photographs (*c.*2,000)

The photographic collection includes Roentgen's first nine radiographs, made in December 1895; records of epidemics of smallpox (Gloucester 1896, Palestine 1922), plague (Bombay, 1896), etc.; clinical photographs from the 1860s; photographs of Hong Kong, Saigon, etc., still in a relatively rural state, made also in the 1860s by John Thomson; albums of hospital photographs; and many other items.

Contemporary Medical Archives Centre

The Contemporary Medical Archives Centre was established in 1979 as a permanent unit within the Library. It aims to encourage and help with the preservation of twentieth-century records, documents, and archive collections relating to medical care and research in Britain. The Centre houses many collections itself and is also happy to advise owners. In some cases, owners retain their records, and advice is given by the Centre on their safekeeping and arrangement. At other times, collections may be transferred to a suitable repository where they are housed and made available for research. The Centre is also concerned to locate and record material of potential relevance to historians, such as collections of papers of individuals, and the records of institutions, societies, and hospitals. It holds the most complete register of British hospital records that is available in this country.

The archives in the Centre reflect all aspects of modern medicine, from laboratory research, clinical practice and public health, to unorthodox and fringe medicine. The evidence may take the form of unpublished correspondence, lectures, memoranda, case notes and administrative records of a consultant or general practitioner, or the minutes and correspondence of a society. Photographic and audio-visual material are also 'archives' and are frequently part of a collection.

Some forty collections and seventy smaller groups of material have been placed in the Centre, either through gift or deposit. These include the papers of Sir Ernst Chain, Professor Ivan de Burgh Daly, Sir Thomas Lewis, Sir George Pickering, Sir Edward Sharpey-Schafer, and Dr Marie Stopes. There are also the records of the Eugenics Society, the Abortion

Law Reform Association, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain, the Association of County Medical Officers of Health, and the British Pharmacological Society, amongst others. Any damaged or fragile documents are repaired by the Institute's Conservation Department and the collection catalogued and safely stored, being made available to bona fide scholars under conditions which respect any sensitive items.

The Centre is normally open to scholars during Library opening hours, but a prior appointment with the Archivist is advisable, especially since collections may not be available for consultation or the permission of the donor/depositor may be required. Readers will normally be required to sign an undertaking. Further details are available in a separate leaflet.

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

For the most part the Library's rarest and most precious items are stored in air-conditioned strongrooms. In spite of this precaution, much preservation work has to be done in a well-equipped workshop staffed by three skilled conservators. They apply a range of techniques to the cleaning and restoration of a wide variety of materials from many cultures. Contact is maintained with national and international preservation centres in order to take advantage of the latest methods and innovations in an increasingly demanding and complex field.

THE ACADEMIC UNIT

The Institute has always been fortunate to have on its staff distinguished scholars. It offered a haven to Professor Max Neuburger from 1939 to 1948. Dr F.N.L. Poynter, Librarian from 1954 to 1964, and Director from 1964 to 1973, was an important figure in international medical-historical circles. His successor as Director, Dr Edwin Clarke, was particularly concerned to establish closer formal links with the academic community. Accordingly, a Scheme of Association was established in 1976 between the Institute and University College London, whereby academic staff of the Unit of the History of Medicine at

University College would be granted status within the Institute, and members of the Academic Unit at the Institute would be recognized as teachers within University College. In practice, the two Units function as an integral whole and are responsible for a broadly-based academic programme, including undergraduate, postgraduate, and postdoctoral instruction, and a series of symposia, seminars, classes, and lectures open to members of the medical profession and the academic community. Equally important, members of the Unit exploit the Institute Library and its special collections in their own researches.

The heart of the undergraduate teaching programme is the intercalated BSc degree in History of Medicine available to third-year medical students. The full-time one-year course consists of six separate papers in the History of Medicine; these individual papers are also available as electives to intercalated medical students at University College and other University of London medical schools, and to science students at University College. Their contents range from classical antiquity to the twentieth century. Intercollegiate history options in the history of medicine and biology are also taught by members of the Unit; these are available to history undergraduates from any college in the University of London. In addition, the Academic Unit shares the teaching for the MSc in the History and/or Philosophy of Science with University College's Department of the History and Philosophy of Science. Details of the formal teaching programme are available through the Office of the Unit at the Institute. Members of the Unit supervise research leading to the MPhil, PhD, and MD degrees. Each year, a number of postdoctoral research fellows are also based at the Institute. These fellows come from Britain and abroad and are supported by grants from the Wellcome Trust and other funding bodies. Many established scholars from all over the world also spend periods of sabbatical leave working at the Institute.

As part of its wider responsibilities to the medical and academic communities, the Unit also runs an active series of one-day Symposia, Research Seminars, Reading Classes, and Public Lectures, which are open to all who are interested in the history of medicine. About five Symposia are held each year on a variety of themes, which have included Theories of Fever from Antiquity to the Enlightenment; the Hospital in its Historical Setting; Dr Johnson and Medicine, and Alcohol and Alcoholism in History. The fortnightly Research Seminars are organized around the ongoing research interests of members of the Unit. The topics will change periodically; the initial series, devoted to the history of

psychiatry, was followed by a series on the patient's view of medicine. A third series has explored the history of medicine in London. As with the Symposia, speakers are drawn from the Institute and from scholars in Britain and abroad. The fortnightly Reading Classes, taught by members of the Unit, involve close discussion of primary texts, for example, a series of treatises on wound treatment from antiquity to the nineteenth century. In addition, the Institute hosts a regular round of Public Lectures. Many of these are designed to give distinguished clinicians, medical scientists, and historians the opportunity to reflect on more recent aspects of medical history.

Members of the Unit are also active in their own researches, which range from Galen to the social history of eighteenth-century Britain to the impact of medical technology on modern medicine. An indication of the range of these researches can be seen from the selection of recent publications of members of the Institute's staff (listed on pages 22-23). Library as well as Academic staff are vigorously engaged in research, and the Institute's role in the national and international history of medicine community is leavened through the strength derived by the close relations maintained between the Library and the Academic Unit.

The Institute regularly sends interested individuals details of its academic programme. Inclusion on the mailing list may be obtained by writing to the Secretary of the Academic Unit at the Institute.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WELLCOME INSTITUTE

The Institute is responsible for two quarterly publications and a series of volumes describing its collections. In addition, several volumes in a monograph series previously published by the Institute are still in print. A current list of these is available at the Institute.

The two periodicals are *Medical History* and *Current Work in the History of Medicine. Medical History* is the leading British journal devoted to the history of medicine and related sciences. It publishes articles and book reviews from scholars throughout the world. There is, in addition, an annual hardback Supplement to *Medical History,* available separately; these Supplements consist of monographs or

collections of papers on aspects of the history of medicine. *Current Work in the History of Medicine* is a bibliographical tool produced by Library staff. Each quarterly issue lists some 1,400 books and articles on the history of medicine in all major European and oriental languages. Subscription details of both these periodicals are available from Professional and Scientific Publications, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

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Catalogue of Western Manuscripts on Medicine and Science in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, by S.A.J. Moorat.

Vol. I. *Manuscripts written before AD 1650.*
Wellcome Historical Medical Library, 1962.

Vol. II. *Manuscripts written after AD 1650,* 2 vols.
Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 1973.

A Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts on Medicine and Science in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, by A.Z. Iskandar.
Wellcome Historical Medical Library, 1967.

A Catalogue of Incunabula in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, by F.N.L. Poynter.
Oxford University Press, 1954. (Out of print.)

A Catalogue of Printed Books in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library.

Vol. I (edited by F.N.L. Poynter).
Books printed before 1641.
Wellcome Historical Medical Library, 1962. (Out of print)

Vol. II (compiled by H.R. Denham)
Books printed from 1641 to 1850. A–E.
Wellcome Historical Medical Library, 1966.

Vol. III (compiled by H.R. Denham)
Books printed from 1641 to 1850. F–L.
Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 1976.

Vol. IV (compiled by H.R. Denham and H.J.M. Symons)
Books printed from 1641 to 1850. M–R.
Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine (in preparation).

Catalogue of Portraits in the Wellcome Institute, by R. Burgess.
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An Annotated Catalogue of Medical Americana in the Library of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, by R.M. Price.
Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 1983.

Consolidated Accessories List. Contemporary Medical Archives Centre 1982.

The card subject catalogue of the Library, which includes the cumulated index of *Current Work in the History of Medicine 1954-1977* was published in 18 vols. during 1980 by Kraus International Publications, P.O. Box 151109, D-8000 Munich 15, W. Germany.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF STAFF

N. Allan, 'Catalogue of Hebrew manuscripts in the Wellcome Institute, London', *J. Semitic Studies,* 1982, **27:** 193–220.

E.J. Browne, *'The Secular Ark': Studies in the History of Biogeography* (Yale University Press, 1983).

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W.F. Bynum and R.S. Porter (editors), *William Hunter and the Eighteenth-Century Medical World* (Cambridge University Press, 1985).

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L.I. Conrad, *The Rise of Historical Writing among the Arabs* (Princeton University Press, 1983).

E.J. Freeman, 'Medical historians, librarians and bibliographers; will they ever meet?', in P. Teigen (editor) *Books, Manuscripts and the History of Medicine: Essays on the 50th Anniversary of the Osler Library* (Science History Publications, 1982).

C.J. Lawrence, 'The nervous system and society in the Scottish Enlightenment', in B. Barnes and S. Shapin (editors), *Natural Order,* (Sage Publications, 1979).

C.J. Lawrence, 'Ornate physicians and learned artisans: Edinburgh medical men 1726–1776' (in *William Hunter and the Eighteenth-Century Medical World*).

M.R. Neve, 'Science in a commercial city: Bristol 1820–1860,' in Ian Inkster, and Jack Morrell (editors), *Metropolis and Province* (Hutchinson, 1983).

V. Nutton, 'The seeds of disease: an explanation of contagion and infection from the Greeks to the Renaissance', *Medical History,* 1983, **27:** 1–34.

R.J. Palmer, *The Studio of Venice and its Graduates in the Sixteenth Century* (Trieste and Padua, Lint, 1983).

R.S. Porter, *English Society in the Eighteenth Century* (Penguin, 1982).

G.M. Prescott, 'Faraday: image of the man and the collector', in D. Gooding and F. James (editors), *Faraday rediscovered* (Macmillan, 1985).

R.M. Price, 'State, Church, charity and smallpox: an epidemic crisis in the City of Mexico, 1797–98', *J. Roy. Soc. Med.,* 1982, **75:** 356–367.

W. Schupbach, *The Paradox of Rembrandt's 'Anatomy of Dr Tulp'* (*Medical History,* Supplement No. 2, 1982).

J. Sheppard (with J. Foster) (editor), *British Archives* (Macmillan, 1982).

D. Wujastyk, 'The spikes in the ears of the ascetic: an illuminated tale in Buddhism and Jainism', *Oriental Art Magazine,* 1984, **30**(2): 189–194.

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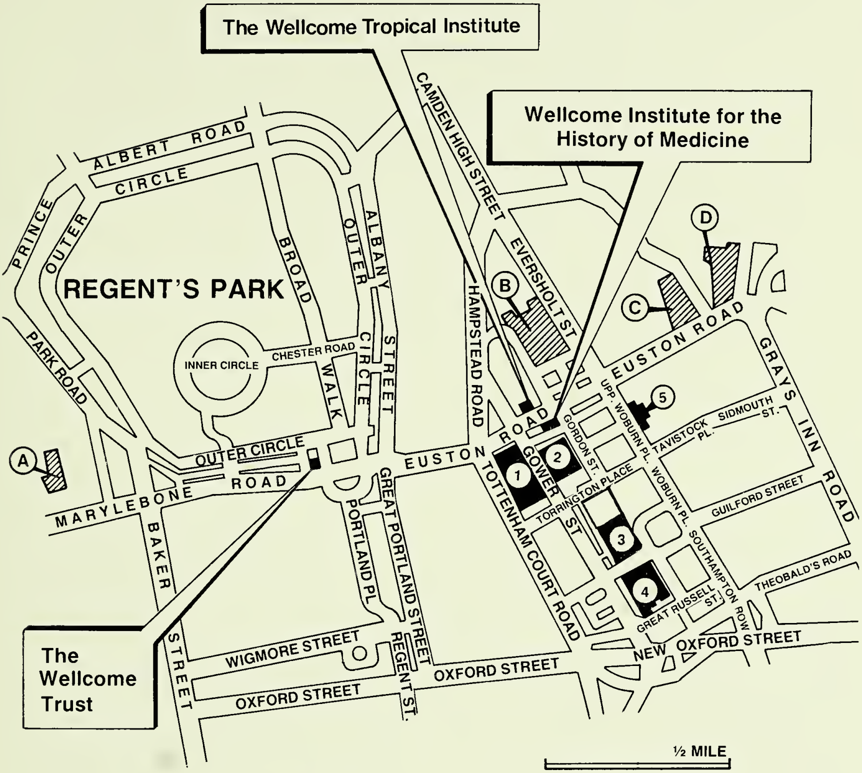

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